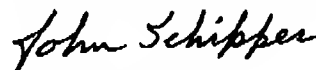


Reply To Examiner's Remarks

Claims 1-5, 7-16, 18-19, 21-22, as amended, and new claims 43-44 are presented for consideration.

The Applicants have received, by facsimile, a statement of claims that were previously approved by the Examiner in an Allowance, mailed 25 March 2003 and have amended the claims originally submitted in the parent application (on 02 March 1999) to conform to the form of the claims approved by the Examiner in that Allowance. The Applicants request that the Examiner review the presented here and, if these claims are acceptable, enter the claims language changes by Examiner's Amendment. The Applicants believe that the claims language presented herein are allowable, based upon the claims previously approved by the Examiner in the Allowance, mailed 25 March 2003. Please advise the Applicants' patent representative by facsimile if any additional changes to the claims language are required.

Respectfully Submitted,



John Schipper

Patent representative for Applicants

Date: 01 February 2004